



**DECEMBER
2022**

T U R N I N G Threads G



What's Inside

PREZ SEYZ

Page 2

EDITOR MUSINGS

Page 3

**DECEMBER
DEMONSTRATION**

Page 7

**SHOW AND TELL /
GALLERY**

Page 16

**PEN WOOD OF THE
MONTH**

Page 24

**PEN KIT OF THE
MONTH**

Page 26

AAW | AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF WOODTURNERS

PREZ SEYZ

2

It was great to see such a good turnout for our December meeting. It was so good to see some of the older members able to finally make it back.



Our beginning class is going really well and the participants are doing great. I want to thank Rob Bartz and Bob Wilcox Dan Brandner and Mary Weider who volunteered to help with the class.

I put on the demo for December and from all of the questions I received it seems like it went very well. I hope everyone got something from the demo and was able to go home and make some kind of an ornament. They make great Christmas gifts.

Barry Grill will be putting on the next the Demo about hollow forms.

Next club meeting will be January 4th 2023. Social hour starts at 6:00PM and the meeting and demo starts at 7:00 PM.

Don't forget Coffee and Chips, Saturday January 14th 2023 from 8:00 to 12:00. Come and use the new tools and make something.

Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year!!!!!!

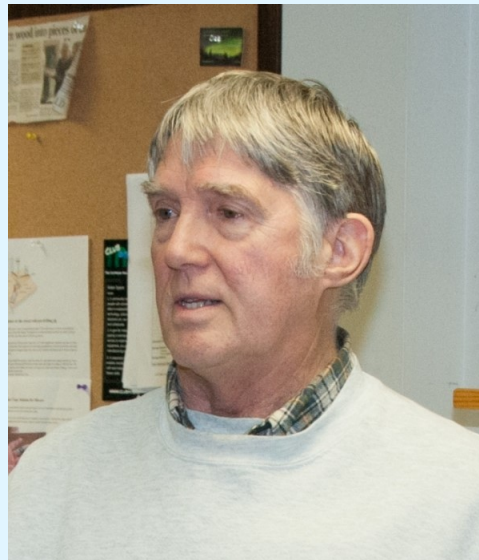
Bob

Editor Musings - Errata

3

A Brass Tube Mystery

Occasionally I have trouble putting a 7mm blank on the mandrel. About half way through inserting it on the mandrel it sticks. The assumption is that the tube has some glue left over that has not been removed. But after running a file through it, using a pen mill, and filing down the mandrel, the problem is still not solved, but the blank can usually be forced onto the mandrel.



However, the worst has yet to come. After turning down the blank, sanding it and finishing it, I discover that the stubborn blank is seemingly glued to the mandrel. I will not go into the various methods I have tried but they have involved screw drivers, pliers, and hammers and sometimes a combination of at least 2 of them. The results of succeeding are usually a blank that has slight damage (if I am lucky) to an unusable one.

So, what is the problem? Possibly the tube was not completely straight or some other slight flaw that preventing the tube from inserting on the mandrel. My inexpert opinion has been the possibility that the heat from turning, sanding, and finishing expanded the tube at the flaw.

Update: Since writing the above I have had 2 more instances of stuck blanks or seemingly so. Using a very limited amount of observation, the blanks that get stuck are 7mm. However, the 7mm tubes are the tubes that come in the kits but only one of the two (if there are two) have a problem. The 7mm tubes bought separately and not in kits do not have a problem.

My second discovery is that when the tubes are larger than 7mm, the bushings are the problem. To get the brushings off the mandrel requires filing down the mandrel if I can move it a few millimeters (usually with a screw driver and hammer) then I can use a file on the mandrel. This process occurs before I switch the bushings to plastic to apply Ca glue.

The 7mm tube issue is still a problem. Filing down the mandrel may or may not work and filing the inside of the tube (and even re-doing the tube with a pen mill) may or may not produce results. I tried these 7mm tubes on 3 other mandrels with the same results. I spent the better part of an hour trying to get this blank on the mandrel with no success. I could force it on but I know it will get stuck.

Instead of using metal spacers on my mandrel, I use wood. I found that this gives me an advantage when the bushings or tubes get stuck. The advantage is that by turning the wood spacers off the mandrel, it gives me room to whack the stuck with a hammer or screw driver and hammer which does release the bushings and blanks.

I queried Google and was surprised that this problem was not uncommon. Some suggestions were:

- Clean the mandrel often

- Clean the bushings after a couple of uses due to finish buildup

- Lightly wax the mandrel

- Use plastic bushings when finishing with Ca glue

- File inside of bushing – may have a small burr

- Use TBC bushings (Turn Between Centers) and avoid the mandrel

<https://www.penturners.org/threads/help-tubes-and-bushings-stuck-to-mandrel.157227/>

When Will I Learn

I had some New Series Style pen kits that were ones I had used before and decided to get them done and out of the way. This is one of those kits which require a tenon on the cap blank. The center ring has 2 loose rings that easily fall off. Fact is, I lost one of the decorative rings in the process of making sure the center ring fit the tenon. The 2 loose rings headed for the floor and I only found the plain ring. But that was just the beginning of my problems with this pen.

In assembling the pen, the twister connector did not fit the tube – it was too small. The next problem was the twister did not fit the cap blank – too small. I solved the problem – if you can call it that – by gluing the twist connector and the twister. I then prepared to do the same with the second pen but got a surprise – the twist connector fit.

I finally realized that I was guilty of not practicing what I preached – namely reading the instructions! However, I had concluded by experience that instructions are not always reliable. I was relying on pen assembly varying little from pen to pen and considering the number of pens I have done; I figured the numbers were on my side. Well, here is another lesson for me. When there are 4 pages of instructions on pen assembly from Berea Hardwoods with a highlighted “Warning” section it should have clued me in. Remember the Nevus pen – it is a Berea pen with 3 pages of instructions and a red “Warning” section.

The Return of the CJK1 Pen

Last month I noted that the CJK1 Pen had a parts number problem. When I looked at the instructions and the number of parts, it was 10 not 11. Apparently, I was not in this world mentally with the first pen. However, the 10th part was not the correct part (assuming my mental processes were working). On the parts picture there were 2 decorative rings but one of the rings was plain as can

be. The 10th part was this plain ring but had more to it. It resembled a smaller version of the clip/twist coupler. The connection of the nib and decorative rings was part of the nib.

<https://www.bereahardwoods.com/pdf/CJK1.pdf>

The pen was assembled but the decorative ring is loose because it could not be pressed tight enough because of the incorrect part.

Membership making “Themed Pens”

I had 2 responses to the offer to buy themed pen kits with bushings and drill bits for the membership to make for the Chainsaw Event. I wondered why no one had emailed me about this offer. At the last meeting, Dan Brandner told me he and others who did not turn pens don't have all the equipment (more specifically the mandrel) to turn or prep the blank and I needed to make a list of what was needed. It certainly was an OOPs moment for me.

Here is my problem with this. There must be at least a dozen ways to do any phase of pen making. I learned to do pens primarily from videos. It was from these videos that I learned what equipment was needed. Finishing is the most confusing aspect. I had to try what versions were appropriate for my situation and using Ca glue with accelerators with little ventilation was not appropriate for my basement shop.

The club has several mandrels which can be borrowed by the membership if that is all that's needed.

Thinking back, The membership has been asked to make an assortment of small items for the next Chainsaw Event that would attract kids and utility items that would attract adults. And now I throw in themed pens. For that I apologize.

Tom Leonard

December Demonstration

Christmas Ornaments

Bob Eberhardt

Bob Eberhardt demonstrated how to make a number of different Christmas Ornaments.

They were all variations on spindle turning, which means virtually any tool may be used:

- Spindle gouges
- Spindle roughing gouges
- Skews
- Carbide tools



The first ornament he turned was a snowman. To start rectangular stock is turned round between centers, and a tenon is put on one end which will fit a 4 jaw chuck. The drive center is then removed and replaced with a 4 jaw chuck and the cylinder mounted.

The cylinder's size is adjusted so that there's a wide cylinder towards the chuck, a narrower one on top of that, and the smallest at the top. These will form the 3 balls of your snowman, so size them so they look nice.

A spindle gouge is used to form beads on each of the cylinders. Use a parting tool when necessary to provide room for the gouge. If the

raised wing of the tool touches an adjacent piece of wood a catch will result.

To roll a bead the bevel starts by rubbing the wood. The handle is then raised to start cutting and the tool is swung to keep the bevel in contact with the wood and following an arc. Most often the beads are made in several passes.

Below the bottom bead (big snowball of our snowman) use a parting tool to clear some space beneath it and make a slightly dished surface so that the snowman sits flat. Keep cutting until the snowman is held by only a few fibers of wood then cut free.

Bob noted that if a piece is removed from the chuck and put back in that center will be lost. An old machinists trick is to loosen the chuck slightly, start the wave, and wack the piece on the end as it rotates. With a bit of skill and luck the piece will regain center.

The snowman needs a top hat, so either a new piece of wood is mounted or the remnants of the previous operation used. Use a spindle gouge to make a hat shape, and a skew can make nice sharp details to represent a hat band. Round the top of the hat slightly to add character. Free the hat from the wood, but leave a 1/4" tenon on it. A fluted parting tool works great for this, because the fluted tool leaves a nice surface.

Set a caliper to 1/4" for the tenon, and carefully take it down until the caliper passes over.

Finally, drill a 1/4" hole in the snowman's head, put a drop of glue in it, and insert the hat.

Next Bob demonstrated a Christmas Tree. Bob has made these in a variety of sizes, from a few inches tall, to a couple of feet. He uses either scrap lumber or live edge branches.

The tree starts off roughly speaking as a cone. Set the tool rest to the angle of the tree and use a skew chisel. By following the tool rest you'll end up with a straight cone. Cut the cone in stages. When using the skew start by rubbing the bevel. Raise the handle and rotate slightly to start cutting.

Once the cone is shaped, make a series of evenly spaced marks around the cone with the tip of the skew. On each of these segments you'll use a skew or spindle gouge to cut a cove. Work from the sharpest point to the widest, and once the sharpest section is formed do not return to it.

At bottom use a parting tool to cut to the trunk of the tree, and use a skew or gouge to form the base.

Be careful while shaping the boughs of the tree not to let the wing touch the bough.

The Bird Cage Ornament starts by using a forstner bit to cut a hole into each side of a square piece of lumber. Don't go all the way through, because if the sides are not exactly parallel the hole won't come out on center. At either end there is a 1/4".

Mount the blank between centers using either a light pull drive or a purpose built drive shaft from a wooden mortice taper.

On the lathe use a spindle gouge or skew to remove material around the hole, and pay attention to the ghosting and sound to know how much material to remove. Taper the top and bottom around the opening of the cage to whatever is pleasing to you.

Next, additional wood, possibly a contrasting species, is used to make long narrow finials. Leave a 1/4" tenon on each so that they fit nicely into the tenons used for making the cage.

Bob uses ornament hangers purchased at Michael's or Hobby Lobby.



Above: Turning the Snowman.
Below: Turning the Snowman's hat



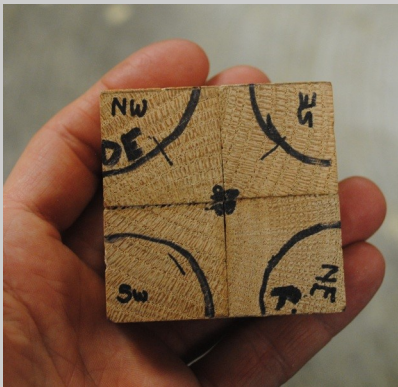


Above: Measured layers of tree ornament
Below: Finished tree ornament.





Bob explains the steps of making and Inside-Out Christmas ornament.





**Variation of the Inside-Out ornament
without the separate pieces.**



Examples of Ornaments made by Bob Eberhardt

14





Dan Gollner

Dan made some cute little gnomes. Would be a good item for the Chain-saw Event.



Dan Brandner



Dan Brandner got a head start on Christmas ornaments by making a tree with rings.

Rick Olson

18



Rick Olson made a gorgeous Maple Burl Bowl. This picture doesn't do it justice.



Ron Bartz



Ron Bartz made two unusual cups with spouts.



At Home Show and Tell



I took some scrap maple boards that I picked out of the trailer at one of our earlier meetings and made a sanding disc out of them. After using my band-saw circle jig to saw the discs and glue them up, I used my spindle tap to thread it for my 1 x 8 TPI spindle. Then I mounted it on my lathe and trued up the edge. Using contact cement, I applied a strip of emery cloths to the outer edge, and sheets of a finer grit to the face of the disc. Now I can use the face to flatten the bottom of a dried and warped bowl, or use the edge to free-form shape something such as a spoon or spatula. I'll still need to make a platform to attach to the lathe bed to create a square surface to the sanding disc.



Dan Brandner

Dan Brandner

My mother-in-law broke her extra-long wooden stirring spoon she used for canning. I offered to make her a replacement. It had to have a longer handle because of the tall kettle she uses, and it had to be able to scrape on the bottom to prevent things from burning on. This is the longest, thinnest spindle I've turned and I ran into all of the associated issues doing that. It also wasn't completely balanced because of the wide end of the board that would become the end of the spoon. I do not yet have spindle support wheels of any kind, but was able to complete it by increasing the spindle speed and using very sharp tools. The handle has a long taper to it and I shaped the spatula end using the sanding disc I created for the task. This was also created from a maple board pulled from the trailer, which had a grain curve at the end that was perfect for the spatula end.



Dan Brandner



Dan made a really nice bowl from / White Oak. It has an unusual grain pattern for White Oak. This pattern is usually seen in Maples and called "curly." May also be called "wavy."

Dan actually presented this bowl in November and the editor must have had a senior moment (which isn't that unusual for him).



There were 13 participants in the gift swap.



Pen Wood of the Month

Common Name(s): Coolibah, coolabah

Scientific Name: *Eucalyptus coolabah* (*E. microtheca* and a number of less-common species are also considered coolibahs, see comments below)

Distribution: Eastern Australia

Tree Size: 20-30 ft (6-10 m) tall, 1-2 ft (.3-.6 m) trunk diameter

Color/Appearance: Heartwood ranges from orangish pink to a much darker reddish brown. Thin sapwood is grayish white. Nearly always seen in burl form.



Allergies/Toxicity: Although severe reactions are quite uncommon, coolibah has been reported to cause skin irritation. See the articles [Wood Allergies and Toxicity](#) and [Wood Dust Safety](#) for more information.

Pricing/Availability: Almost without exception sold as burl caps or blanks. Prices are very high, on par with most other imported Australian burls.

Sustainability: Coolibah is not listed in the CITES Appendices, but is reported by the IUCN as being near threatened (for *E. coolabah* only). Technically it doesn't meet the Red List criteria of a vulnerable or endangered species, but is close to qualifying and/or may qualify in the near future.

Common Uses: Turned objects, knife and gun grips, inlay, and other small specialty items.

Comments: The name coolibah comes from the name *gulabaa* given to the tree by indigenous Australians. The coolibah trees known today encompass several different species, but when it was first described in 1858, it was recognized as a single species: *Eucalyptus microtheca*. (The *Eucalyptus* genus has over 700 recognized species, and botanists have divided and subdivided this large pie into progressively smaller slices—to the point where most authors describe coolibah species in a hierarchy four to five layers deep under *Eucalyptus*.) Most authors agree that coolibah species are a sub-group of Australian box trees, and the two groups are closely related.^[1]

Currently, the Centre for Australian National Biodiversity Research (CANBR) and their internet-based EUCLID [project](#) is perhaps the most authoritative and up-to-date resource for eucalypts. The authors here currently recognize four discernible coolibah species, though mention is also given to other species in this specialized grouping, totaling ten species.^[2]

Source: www.wood-database.com: [Coolibah | The Wood Database \(Hardwood\) \(wood-database.com\)](#)

The editor and photographer apologizes to John Layde for not photographing his innovative use of a piece of wood with a large hole in which he made a beautiful picture frame. Perhaps he will bring it to the next meeting or send a picture to redress this omission.

Pen Kit of the Month

This month's pen kit is called "Contour Twist" Penn State had a 5 pen starter set for \$55.95 that included the bushings. Penn Stat

e Ind. states "We have designed the Contour to look good and feel good in your hand. With a faceted, ergonomically designed tip, it is very comfortable to hold. A great option to ease writing cramps or to use in long writing sessions. Easy to make with a single 3/8in. tube. Includes a smooth writing Parker style refill. "



Beside the Red Coolabah, other Contours are Ironwood, Cherry, Red Wood Burl and an Acrylic called "Breaking Waves."





**Coolabah
tree and
leaves**





**Coolabah
flowers**

**Coolabah
pellets—used
for fire heat.**





**Coolabah
natural
edge bowl.**

This space was left empty due to the lack of wood products for this wood. There were plenty of companies in Australia with the name Coolabah that had nothing to do with the tree.

Looking To Sell

2011 Powermatic 3520B

2 HP 220 V

McNaughton Center Saver System

Make Offer

Call or Text : 715-226-2503

Band Saw Blades

New 96" for Delta or Jet without riser block

Proceeds go to CVWG

Blades are at clubhouse

Looking To Buy

“Looking for a better table saw than the one I have.”

Dan Brandner

715-305-3449

Next Demonstration

Necked Vessels

Barry Grill



COMING EVENTS

Meetings are first Wednesday of the month at 7 pm. Open house—Coffee and Chips - is the second Saturday of the month from 8 am to 12 pm

Meeting Dates and Demonstrations

January 4—Barry Grill—Necked Vessels

February 1—Joe Nycz—To Be Determined

March 1—Mary Weider—Acrylics

April 5—Dan Brandner—Small Bowl From Scrap

May 3— Not Yet Determined

June 7— Not Yet Determined

Open House-Coffee and Chips Dates

**January 14 from 8:00 am to 12:00pm-
Masks not required (if not turning) and
Vaccinations suggested. If coming after
10:00 please inform us through the web
site the night before at:**

(www.woodturnercvwg@gmail.com)

Meetings and Coffee and Chips are held in the Eau Claire Insulation building at 1125 Starr Ave on the northeast side of Eau Claire, Wi.

Board of Directors for 2023

President **Bob Eberhardt**

Vice President *John DeRyckere*

**Treasurer/
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Secretary *John DeRyckere*
Co-Secretary *Tom Leonard*

Program Director *John Layde*

At Large Director *Joe Nycz*

At Large Director **Ron Bartz**

Non Board Positions

Newsletter Editor *Tom Leonard*

Web Master **Jerry Engedal**

Members and interested persons may contact the Chippewa Valley Woodturners Guild by email at: woodturnercvwg@gmail.com

*Photos of Show and Tell / Gallery items
provided by : Mary Weider*